

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 18-21, 28-31, and 38 are pending in the present application and have been rejected. Claims 6-17, 22-27, 32-37, and 39-42 have been withdrawn. Claims 28-31 have been canceled. Claims 1, 18, and 38 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The claims have been objected to because of the use of parentheses. The claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the objections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 28-31 have been canceled pursuant to the Office Action's advisory that claims 18-21 are a substantial duplicate of claims 28-31.

Claims 1-5, 19-21, 28-31, and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 28-31 have been canceled, thereby obviating their rejections. The remaining claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5, 19-21, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 18-21, 28-31, and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 28-31 have been canceled, thereby obviating their rejections. The remaining claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5, 18-21, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 18-21, 28-31, and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 28-31 have been canceled, thereby obviating their rejections. The remaining claims have been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5, 18-21, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 18-21, 28-31, and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Agrawal (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,533). As noted above, claims 28-31 have been canceled, thereby obviating their rejections. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5, 18-21, and 38 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 is directed to extending an Item which constitutes a storable unit of information. In particular, according to claim 1 (as amended), the Item comprises a type

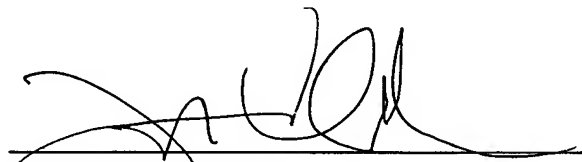
structure, and the type structure is extended using the data structure of an Extension. The data structure of the Extension includes a property or a relationship. The prior art fails to disclose or suggest these features.

Agrawal is directed to mining data relationships from an integrated database. Agrawal describes SQL object-relational extensions such as user-defined functions, binary large objects, and table functions. A table function is used to generate all possible rules from a frequent itemset. Such a function is used in rule generation. The extensions of Agrawal are different from the claimed extensions, however, as they do not extend the type structure of an item, and more particularly, do not comprise a data structure that extends the type structure of an item.

Claims 18 and 38 recite features similar to those described above with respect to claim 1. Based on the foregoing, claims 1, 18, and 38, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-5 and 19-21, should not be rejected as being anticipated by Agrawal. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5, 18-21, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

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